Automation of petrol pumps

2441. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has drawn up a unique well planned programme to automate the various petrol pumps across the country by the Oil Marketing Companies;

(b) if so, the status of this automation;

(c) the total plan outlay for this programme;

(d) wheher it is also a fact that plan is running behind schedule;

(e) the reasons for this delay and by when the completion of this automation will take place; and

(f) the main benefits to the common customers due to this automation process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to monitor the activities at Retail Outlets (ROs) by adopting the latest technological improvements, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have been advised to expeditiously complete the Automation of ROs selling more than 200 KL per month.

As on 31.03.2008, OMCs have completed approx 70% automation of the ROs selling more than 200 KL per month.

(c) Total plan outlay for this programme of OMCs is 682.71 Crores.

(d) and (e) BPCL has completed the automation programme as per their target HPCL and IOCL have not completed the automation of all ROs as per schedule, *i.e.* 31.03.2008. They are expecting to complete the automation of balance ROs by September, 2008. OMCs have reported that the following are the factors affecting the pace of automation:

(i) The retail automation is a niche segment and globally only limited vendors are available to carry out system integration for retail automation.

(ii) Wide geographical spread of the ROs to be automated across the country creating logistics strain;

(iii) High import content requirement both in hardware as well as software.

(f) The automation system being provided at retail outlets is expected to facilitate better monitoring of the stocks, receipts and sales from the automated retail outlets, apart from other features like computerized billing etc. These transactions are constantly recorded by the system and are automatically transferred to OMCs Head Office on daily basis. The system is expected to ensure efficient stock reconciliation on day-to-day basis thereby reducing the chances of unintended product being unloaded in the tanks at these retail outlets.

Crude Oil Import Bill

2442. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's crude oil import bill during 2007-08 has gone up in comparison to the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government's rising crude oil import bill has directly affected the economy of the country;

(d) if so, whether the efforts made by Government to curtail crude oil import bill have not been found successful; and

(e) if so, the new strategies to be adopted to increase the domestic production of crude oil and to cut import bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The details of crude oil imports during the current year and last two years are given below:

Year	Crude oil import (MMT)	Import Bill (Rs. Crores)
2007-08 (April 07-Feb.'08)	111.1	243206
2006-07	111.5	219029
2005-06	99.4	171702

(c) Increase in the import bill due to fluctuations in international oil prices can have a cascading effect on the overall economy, affecting primary sectors such as transport, power, fertilizers, etc. besides generating inflationary pressures and slowing down the growth rate of the economy . The current International oil prices which are at record highs are seeing a rise in the import costs of petroleum products refined in the country and creating an upward pressure on the retail sale price of petroleum products. However, the Government has not allowed the retail prices of petroleum products to rise in tandem with the international oil prices and has taken measures to protect the economy, particularly the common man, from the impact of rising international oil prices.

(d) and (e) Several steps have been taken/are in hand to reduce our dependence on import of crude oil and to accelerate hydrocarbon exploration and production activities, to bridge the demand and supply gap in the country. These steps, which are showing positive results, are as follows:

i. Carving out more and more areas for exploration for offer under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

ii. Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling early commencement of production.

iii. Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.

iv. Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields.

v. Arresting decline from ageing fields.

vi. Acquisition of exploration acreages and oil producing properties overseas to bring in Equity Oil.

vii. Substitution of oil in the transport sector through use of alternative fuel such as bio-diesel, ethanol blended petrol, etc.

viii. Evolving suitable technology for extraction of gas from gas hydrates under National Gas Hydrates Programme (NGHP).

Consumption and exploration of oil and gas in country

2443. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of natural gas and oil being explored from the reserves of different States and Union Territories on yearly basis, State/UT-wise;

(b) the percentage of the quantity of gas/oil in daily consumption over the quantity explored;

(c) how many industrial units based on gas/oil are in operation and how many more in the pipeline; and

(d) the programme in detail with reference to the States concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL) and Private/Joint Venture (JV) companies have established 8865 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) of oil and gas inplace reserves in the country as on 1.4.2007. Out of these, 3782 MMT inplace reserves are in onland areas in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Tripura. Remaining 5083 MMT in place reserves are in offshore areas. The State-wise breakup of in place reserves position as on 1.4.2007 is annexed as Statement (*See* below). The average oil and gas reserve accretion during Tenth Plan period was of the order of 325 MMT per annum.

The consumption of petroleum products in the country was 120.7 MMT in 2006-07. The domestic Crude oil production in the corresponding period was about 34 MMT. The dependence on imported crude oil by the oil refining companies was 78.7 percent in the year 2006-07. During this period, natural gas supply to consumers was 96 Million Standard Cubic Metre Per Day (MMSCMPD), comprising of 73 MMSCMD from domestic sources and 23 MMSCMD through Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) imports.

The country has, as on date, 19 refineries with a capacity of about 149 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA). Of this capacity, 105.5 MMT is with Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and the balance 43.5 MMT is in the private sector. An additional capacity of 92 MMT per annum is expected to be added during Eleventh Plan period (2007—12) including refineries in Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. The country is not only self-sufficient in refining capacity for its domestic consumption but also exports petroleum products substantially. As far as exploration is concerned, presently 44% of sedimentary basins of India are under exploration. By end of Eleventh Plan period *i.e.* 2012, 80% of Indian sedimentary basin area is likely to be under exploration and by 2015, whole sedimentary basin has been targeted to be under exploration.